15-Passenger Van Safety

Name

Unit Safety Officer

Introduction

- 15-Passenger Vans & Safety Concerns
- Response to NHTSA Report
  - Classroom Training
  - Practical Hands On Training

Agenda

- NHTSA Report
- Accident Facts
- 15-Passenger Van Facts
- Driving Tips
- Check-Out Procedures
- NSC Van Safety Program

Vocabulary

- NHTSA – National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.
- NSC – National Safety Council
- CDL – Commercial Driver's License

NHTSA Report

- 15-passenger vans have a increased rollover risk under certain conditions
- The risk of rollover increases dramatically as the number of occupants increases from fewer than five occupants to over ten passengers.
- 15-passenger vans (with 10 or more occupants) had a rollover rate in single vehicle crashes that is nearly 3 x the rate of those that were lightly loaded.

NHTSA Report (continued)

- Loading 15-passenger vans causes the center of gravity to shift rearward and upward increasing the likelihood of rollover. Shift in the center of gravity will also increase the potential for loss of control in panic maneuvers.
- It is important that the van be operated by experienced drivers, they should understand and be familiar with the handling characteristics of their vans, especially when fully loaded.

NHTSA Reports (continued)

- Institutions using 15-passenger vans should require seat belt use at all times.
- Any load placed on the roof will be above the center of gravity of the vehicle and will increase the likelihood of rolling over.

NHTSA OVERHEADS

- Figure 1, Light Vehicle Crashes
- Figure 2, Fatal Crashes
- Figure 3, Single Vehicle Rollovers
- Figure 4, Rollover Rate by Vehicle Type
- Figure 5, Rollover by Vehicle Type
- Figure 6, Rural Road Rollover
- Figure 7, Freeway Rollover
- Figure 8, Out of Control Vehicle
- Figure 9, Vehicle Under Control

http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hot/rollover/figures.htm

Overview

- 15-passenger Vans should be operated by experienced drivers.
- In order to insure we have the most qualified drivers we now require:

  3 years of driving experience

  Successfully complete classroom program

  Successfully complete a road test

Accident Facts

- 25% of all driving accidents are the result of excessive speed.
- 70% of driving accidents occur within 25 miles from home.
- 1 out of 4 employees who drive experience an accident while at work.
- Most people know someone who has died in a car accident.

15-Passenger Van Facts

- A speed that may be acceptable in a passenger car could be dangerous in a van.
- A 16 passenger vehicle requires a CDL
- You should fill the front seats first. The center of gravity shifts to the rear and upward increasing the likelihood of rollover as capacity increases.
- Soft shoulders and culverts pose a hazard in rural areas.
- The shift in the center of gravity will also increase the potential for loss of control in panic maneuvers.

Driving Tips

- For all kinds of vehicles.
- Defensive Driving Theories
- Dealing with aggressive drivers
- Backing the vehicle
- Highway driving
- City Driving
- Rural Driving
- Emergency situations
- Vehicle accidents

Driving Tips for all vehicles

- Avoid sharp turns.
- Avoid excessive speed and abrupt maneuvers.
- Don’t drive tired.
- Don’t drive in bad weather
- Drive conservatively
- Rest stops often (every 2 hrs. recommended)
- Wear seat belts
- Drive during the day, if possible.
- Require someone to be awake in the front seat with the driver on long trips

For all vehicles (continued)

- 2-way radio for all vehicles and cellular phone for leader on multi-vehicle trips.
- Trip leader to drive lead vehicle and set pace. . .no other vehicle shall pass.
- Obey all laws, signs and speed limits.

Defensive Driving Theories

- Drive with courtesy
- Be calm when driving
- Concentrate when driving
- Drive cautiously

Dealing With Aggressive Drivers

- Avoid eye contact.
- Don’t cut in front of other drivers.
- Allow fellow drivers to merge
- Don’t aggravate fellow drivers with hand gestures.
- Don’t tailgate.
- Use your horn sparingly.

Backing The Vehicle

- Use a spotter
- Back to the left (driver's side)
- Avoid backing up if you miss a ramp/exit.
- Use outside mirrors.

Highway Driving

- Lane changes and signals.
- Merges
- Blind Spots
- Slow moving vehicles

City Driving

- Stop signs
- Pedestrians
- Bicyclists
- Signals

Rural Driving

- Bicyclist
- Walkers
- Deer/Moose
- Soft shoulders
- Culverts
- Curves, hills and narrow roads

Emergency Situations

- Encountering emergency vehicles
- Headlights go out
- Tire blow out
- Engine failure
- Break Failure

Check-Out Procedures

- Driver’s must have a valid state driver’s license and MC driver’s license.
- Inspect the vehicle and report any problems.

Vehicle Accident

- Relax
- Never leave the scene of an accident.
- Report the accident to the police.
- Never admit fault.
- Gather all the facts (date, time, witnesses, phone numbers, etc.)
- Immediately report all accidents to local Security and your Supervisor